OPPORTUNITY FOR FEDERAL GRANT EPA'S TARGETED WATERSHED GRANT PROGRAM

Any governmental or nonprofit non-governmental entities interested in applying for a grant under the US Environmental Protection Agency's 2005 Targeted Watershed Grant Program (formerly called the Watershed Initiative) are asked to submit their applications to DEQ by Friday, April 15, 2005.

The EPA web site with all the instructions, criteria and updates on the program can be found at: http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/initiative. The EPA Region III contact for questions, Ralph Spagnolo, can be reached at 215-814-2718 or via email at spagnolo.ralph@epa.gov. EPA anticipates that typical grant awards for the selected watersheds will range from \$600,000 to \$900,000.

EPA's Call for Nominations, which appeared in the Federal Register on February 18, 2005, stipulates that for a project to be eligible it must be nominated by the Governor. Each Governor is limited to two watershed nominations within their jurisdiction; however, there is no limit on the number of inter-state watershed projects that can be nominated.

A separate EPA solicitation for projects located within the Chesapeake Bay watershed will be forthcoming soon. However, EPA has suggested that in order to streamline the review process, DEQ should ask for applications to be submitted for all projects located within the Commonwealth of Virginia. The recommended projects outside of the Chesapeake Bay watershed will be submitted by the May 19, 2005 deadline, and those projects within the Chesapeake Bay watershed will be submitted to EPA by the deadline specified in the upcoming solicitation.

In order to allow for evaluation of Virginia nominations and final selection by Governor Warner, applicants are asked to submit their applications by 5 P.M. Friday, April 15, 2005 in electronic form and 4 paper copies to:

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Office of Water Quality Programs Attn: Charles Martin, Watershed Programs Manager P.O. Box 10009 Richmond, VA 23240 chmartin@deq.virginia.gov

Applicants may contact Mr. Martin at 804-698-4462 with any questions about the submission process for Virginia projects. Questions about the content of the applications or about criteria contained in the Federal Register announcement should be directed to Mr. Spagnolo with EPA at the number listed above.